

## Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

### Overview

The Federal Clean Water Act Section 303(d) requires states to develop lists of impaired water bodies and develop load reduction programs (called TMDLs) that insure that the impaired water body meet *standards* (water quality objectives to protect beneficial uses) by a specified date. A TMDL establishes numeric targets to attain applicable water quality standards, establishes the waterbody's maximum allowable pollutant load consistent with those targets, and allocates the allowable load among the pollutant sources. The Board typically establishes the TMDL and its implementation plan through an amendment to the Basin Plan.

Approximately every two years, the 303(d) list is updated through a public process as part of the development of the [Integrated Report](#). The integrated report identifies how many miles or acres of surface water bodies within each Region are good, intermediate or impaired. The Central Valley Water Board has placed a high priority on addressing the most significant and wide-spread water quality impairments and have [adopted TMDLs](#) that encompass entire watersheds, including hundreds of miles of streams and large numbers of dischargers (e.g. Nutrient and Mercury in Clear Lake; Delta Mercury; Salt and Boron in the Lower San Joaquin River; and Selenium in the San Joaquin River Basin).

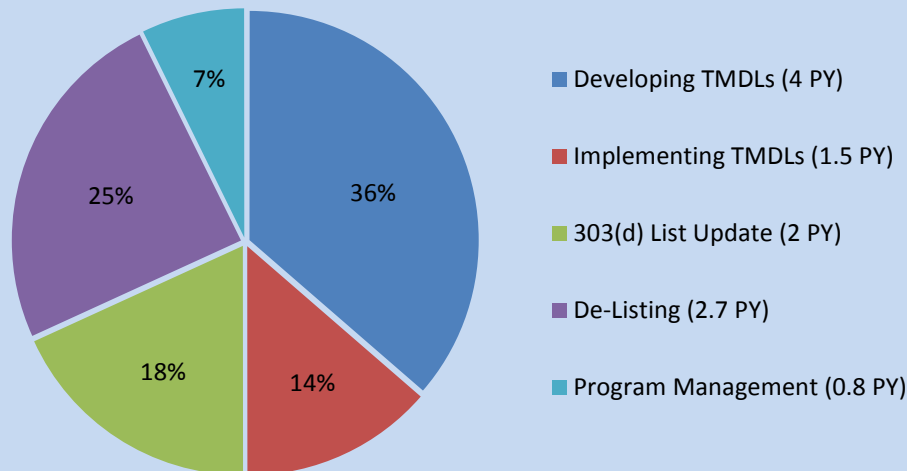
There are currently 730 Central Valley waterbody-pollutant segments listed as impaired on the state's 303(d) list. TMDLs and other Board actions have addressed 124 of these listings and 606 currently need to be addressed, but that number will change as the 303(d) list is updated and additional TMDL projects completed. Funding for the program comes from both Waste Discharger Permit Fees (7.5 staff) and Federal USEPA (3.5 staff). The graph below shows how these resources are allocated. All program staff work out of the Rancho Cordova office.

### Goals

The TMDL Program goals are:

- Develop and implement TMDLs and other pollution control requirements to address the highest priority pollutants and stressors in surface waters: pesticides; mercury; salt; selenium; and low dissolved oxygen.
- Implement TMDL-program related portions of the Board's [2014 Delta Strategic Plan](#).
- Address 303d listings efficiently, including addressing multiple 303(d) listings with one project, developing programs that prevent potential future 303(d) listings, documenting when waterbodies can be de-listed, and documenting when existing control programs preclude the need for TMDLs.
- Coordinate with the Board's regulatory programs to ensure the TMDLs and other pollution control requirements are implemented correctly and water quality impairments are reduced.
- Update the 303(d) list of impaired waters.

## TMDL Staff Activities: FY 16/17



## Priority Activities: Fiscal Year 2016 – 2017

- Complete the 2014 Central Valley Integrated Report including assessment of overall surface water quality within the Region and updating the 303(d) list of impaired water bodies.
- Board Consideration of Pyrethroid TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment—address 15 known Pyrethroid impairments and incorporate a phased control program for timely and efficient water quality improvement where needed.
- Development of Statewide TMDL for mercury-impaired reservoirs
  - Submit draft staff report for scientific peer review
  - Continued development of pilot projects with Reservoir Operators tests to evaluate water chemistry and fisheries management as a means to reduce mercury levels in fish
  - Release proposed TMDL for public comment
- Prepare resolutions for toxicity, pesticide and metal/non-metal de-listings based on new water quality data and existing regulatory activities
- Initiate Mercury Off-sets review in the Sacramento River Basin

### Implementation of following TMDLs:

- Delta Mercury Control Program
  - Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program: develop and post fish consumption advisory signs
- Diazinon/chlorpyrifos Control Program
- Dissolved Oxygen in the Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel
- Clear Lake Mercury Control Program

## Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 2016 – 2017

### TMDL Project

Pyrethroid TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment  
303(d) List Update

### Target

15 Listings Addressed  
Board Approved 303(d) List Update